## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAGU 00487 011635Z ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-08 AID-05 TRSE-00 BIB-01 /074 W
-------117124 020610Z /10

R 312124Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5567
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, NU, SHUM

SUBJECT: RESTRICTION ON RADIO AND TV NEWS BROADCASTS

REF: MANAGUA 0441

1. ON JAN. 27 THE GON INVOKED THE LAW OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY (REFTEL) IN ISSUING A COMMUNIQUE ORDERING RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS TO "ABSTAIN FROM ANY TRANSMISSION THAT DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY STIM-ULATES OR CAUSES ANXIETY, ALARM OR PANIC." ON THE SAME DAY THE GON'S CHIEF OF RADIO AND TV MET WITH OWNERS OF RADIO AND TV STATIONS AND TOLD THEM THAT THEY COULD NOT REPORT ANYTHING ABOUT THE NATIONAL WORK STOPPAGE. TO COMPLAINTS THAT SUCH AN ORDER WAS UNCONSTITTUTIONAL, HE REPORTEDLY REPLIED THAT THE NATIONAL GUARD DECIDED TWHAT WAS CONSTITUTIONAL.

2. THE OWNERS OF RADIO NEWS PROGRAMS REPORTEDLY DECIDED LATER TO GO ALONG WITH THE GON, BUT ON MONDAY THE MEMBERS OF THE RADIO BROAD-CASTERS UNION OF MANAGUA (REPORTERS) MET AND DECIDED THAT THEY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 MANAGU 00487 011635Z

WOULD NO LONGER BROADCAST ANY NEWS. AS OF TUESDAY ABOUT HALF A DOZEN OF MANAGUA'S RADIO STATIONS, AS WELL AS TV CHANNELS 2 AND 12, TWO OF THREE TV STATIONS, ARE NOT BROADCASTING ANY NEWS (THE THIRD STATION, CHANNEL 6, BELONGS TO SOMOZA AND FOLLOWS THE GON LINE).

3. THERE HAS BEEN NO RESTRICTION ON NEWSPAPER REPORTING ON THE NATIONAL WORK STOPPAGE.

4. COMMENT: AS WE HAD REPORTED THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT DO (REFTEL), THE GON IS USING THE STATE OF EMERGENCY AND INFORMAL PRESSURES TO CIRCUMVENT THE NEED TO REIMPOSE THE STATE OF SIEGE. WITH RESPECT TO THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION, HOWEVER, THE END RESULT IS SIMILAR. SOLAUN

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

Concepts: MARTIAL LAW, CENSORSHIP, RADIO BROADCASTING, TELEVISION BROADCASTING

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Subject: RESTRICTION ON RADIO AND TV NEWS BROADCASTS

TAGS: PINS, SHUM, SOPN, NU

To: STATE Type: TE

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Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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